

OUR GREAT "WHAT IF" CONFRONTS THE GREAT I AM (EXODUS 4:1-17)

v. 1: Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

Miracle #1: The ordinary staff becomes a _____ (vv. 2-5)

v. 2: Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. ³ The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake...

Miracle #2: The clean hand becomes fatally _____ (vv. 6-8)

v. 6: So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

Miracle #3: The mighty life-giving River Nile turns to ______ (v. 9)

v. 9: "But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."

God's Provision #1: Know who you are _____ (vv. 10-12)

v. 11: The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths?"

God's Provision #2: Know that God will ______ for the calling (vv. 13-17)

v. 15: "I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do."

• Can / should I ever question God?

• Can / should I really trust God?

YHWH IS THE GOD OF...

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

DIGGING DEEPER Small group study and discussion

As a group, read together slowly through **Exodus 4:1-17**. Briefly highlight some things that stand out to you.

Question for the group:

- 1. Can you tell a brief story of a time when you made a big excuse to escape an assignment at school or at work?
- 2. When you read this story, what do Moses' objections sound like to you?
 - Honest concerns
 - Lazy excuses
 - Low self-esteem
 - Genuine humility
 - Gripping fear
 - Daring defiance
- 3. Do you think Moses was more uncertain of himself or of God?
- 4. When faced with a life challenge, are you more uncertain of yourself or of God?
- 5. How can you relate to Moses' uncertainty about God when facing the great Pharoah of Egypt? How much of your uncertainty is honest searching, and how much of it is making excuses?
- 6. Read the following passages and answer the question, "How does God provide?"
 - Genesis 22:6-8
 - 1 Corinthians 2:4
 - Romans 12:3
 - Hebrews 11:1-3
- 7. As a group, can you come up with biblical examples of characters who had serious questions for God? What happened?
- 8. What would it take for you to step out in faith and follow God's call on your life?
- 9. What is your greatest fear in doing so?

PERSONAL EXPLORATION

Take home and consider these questions:

- Read John 14:1-14. What does Jesus say about calling, provision, and power?
- Contemplate: What is the calling of God in your own life? In what ways do you feel inadequate and incomplete?
- What happens in when you feel God's pull on your heart and you turn away from it?
- What areas of your life does God need to get ahold of in order for you to follow the Great I AM?